

"Tensions Between Orthodoxy and Non-Orthodoxy"

The Executive Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, will be the featured speaker at a special inter-congregational Friday evening service on December 5. Rabbi Hirsch will speak on the topic: "Tensions Between Orthodoxy and Non-Orthodoxy: How Shall We Overcome and Co-Exist?" The event is co-sponsored by Congregations Sha'ar Zahav, Sherith Israel, and Emanu-El, and will commence at 8:00 pm in the main sanctuary of Congregation Emanu-El, at Arguello and Lake Streets.

Rabbi Hirsch has addressed the issue of orthodox/non-orthodox relations in publications and speeches throughout the world, urging that "a liberal movement committed to k'lal Yisrael must be committed to changing the current deteriorating direction of intra-Jewish relations." He has decried ultra-Orthodox extremism and asked the modern Orthodox to speak out. He has also called on Reform and Liberal Jews not to be insensitive to the needs of the Orthodox community.

Rabbi Hirsch served on the executive boards of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, and acts as Executive Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. The WUPJ is the umbrella organization for Reform (or as it is called in some places, Progressive or Liberal) Judaism in 25 countries, with headquarters in Jerusalem. It provides philosophical, programmatic, and financial support to existing congregations and communities, and helps to start up new synagogues. The World Union has been a leader in Israel in the fight to prevent the ultra-Orthodox from altering the Law of Return. Despite political difficulties, a progressive movement does exist in Israel, featuring 18 congregations, two kibbutzim, youth camps, and a high school/community center.

Celebrate Our Chanukah Fiesta

Who can resist the exciting sounds of salsa, the delicious flavors of chili and chichis, and the romance of a quiet beach at sunset.

Sound tempting? Then brace yourself, because Sha'ar Zahav's Chanukah celebration, Cafe Latke Grande, will offer all—well most—of these, *plus* a chance to take part in our big raffle drawing of a vacation for two to Puerto Vallarta. Join us for dancing to a professional DJ, entertainment by a special guest star and, of course, our world famous "deep dish" latkes (mit salsa!)

Remember to bring your menorah for our traditional group menorah lighting ceremony, held at 8:30 sharp. In addition, another year-old tradition, our Silent Auction, will be helping to raise funds for the congregation. (If you have a service to donate, please call Ralph Frischman at 626-9915.)

Do join us, and bring lots of friends:

Saturday, December 27

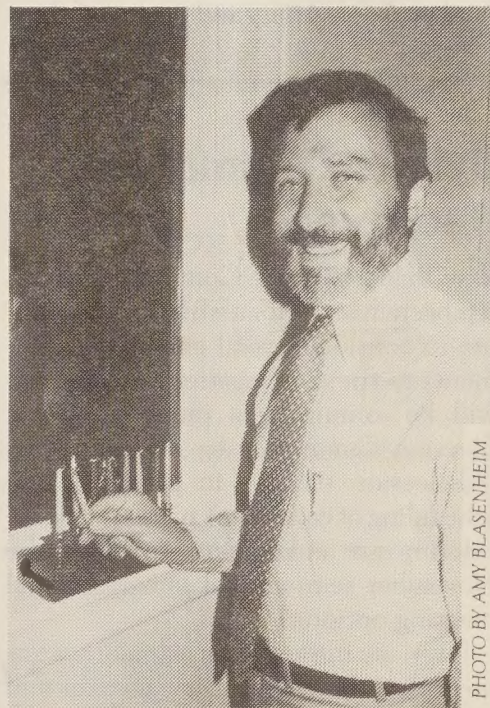
8 pm til midnight

Temple Sherith Israel
California & Webster

Donations: \$5 members, \$7 guests

Dress is colorful

For additional raffle tickets, contact Shirley Liberman (550-1744) or the CSZ office. Also contact Shirley to volunteer to help make this another memorable occasion.



Pirsum ha-nes: Ritual Chair Daniel Chesir "advertises the miracle" of Chanukah with his usual flair.

CSZ Book Fair

December is National Jewish Book Month. For two weeks, from the 5th through the 14th, Sha'ar Zahav will be hosting a Book Fair. Put together by the Education Committee, the Fair is a triple celebration of National Jewish Book Month, Chanukah and the soon-to-be opened Sha'ar Zahav library!

On display at the Fair will be a selection of the newest titles by popular Jewish authors, beautiful editions of traditional Jewish prayerbooks and, of course, of the Torah. Menorahs, dreidels and other gift

items for Chanukah will also be part of the Fair. Everything will be on sale. Bill Goldstein (793-4283) will handle purchase arrangements.

So indulge yourself, pick up gifts for friends and donate a needed addition to the new library. Sha'ar Zahav will receive a small percentage of each sale. Come visit the Fair on the second floor of the synagogue during CSZ office hours, after Friday night services, and during two special pre-Chanukah events (see separate articles).

They Light Up Our Lives

The flames of the Chanukah candles have always made me happy. As the days of this joyful festival pass, each additional candle adds to my pleasure, until the final eighth day when I can bathe in the warm glow of them all. On Friday, December 26 we will celebrate the first night of Chanukah at our synagogue with the lighting of one candle. Additionally, on that same evening we will honor some special people who have been bright lights in our congregation's life. This is the night we dedicate a plaque in honor of the past presidents of Sha'ar Zahav.

Our growth and success as an organization today is due to the dedication and hard work, creativity and dreams of these

people. I invite you to join us as we show our appreciation and respect for them all. Donations to a synagogue fund in honor of the whole group would be lovely, or perhaps you might like to specially honor some of our past leaders who are still active members: Daniel Chesir, Paul Cohen, Cheryl Orvis, Mike Rankin, Leila Raim and Don Albert.

New members who joined during the months of October and November will be recognized on this gala evening. Do try to attend—it promises to be a lovely Shabbat and Yomtov and a great excuse for another rousing Sh'hechyanu.

—Irene Ogus, President

Bylaws Committee to Reconvene

The Bylaws Review Committee, which has been inactive for a while, is reconvening to consider several possible amendments to the congregation's bylaws. We will be examining a proposal by the Election Committee to streamline the pre-election process, in particular the scheduling of candidate's nights, and considering an amendment to make the November semi-annual congregational meeting optional.

If you are interested in attending a few meetings over the next few months and in participating in the drafting of legislation for the May meeting, please contact Richard Inlander (821-4134).

Keeping Posted

Homosexuality is the subject of the current issue of *Keeping Posted*, the UAHC publication for high school students. Among the contributors are Rabbi Janet Marder, of Beth Chayim Chadashim in Los Angeles, writing on "Jewish and Gay," and CSZ member Mike Rankin, "Homosexuality: The New Understanding." Featured are two photos from the *Forward* files, showing Sha'ar Zahav members marching in the 1985 Gay Lesbian Freedom Day Parade and participating in the ongoing vigil for Soviet Jewry at the Soviet Consulate on Green Street. All in all, the issue is a very positive and a rather extraordinary statement in support of gay people. Copies are available on the information tables at the shul.

Office Notes

A very special thanks to Allan Gold, Don Albert, Alita Rosenfeld, Tom Rothgiesser, Eric Keitel and Robin Leonard for pitching in and helping with mailing to High Holidays donors and membership inquiries.

Thanks to Eli Weinstein whose expertise extends to gardening.

—Jacqueline Letalien

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Archetype visual imaging services.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-6594) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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Chanukah's for Children, Too

On Sunday, December 7, during the CSZ Book Fair, Sha'ar Zahav will present a Children's Book Fair & Latke Party from 11 am to 1 pm. Books for children and adults, as well as Chanukah ritual and gift items, will be available for purchase on the second floor of the shul.

Storyteller Jay Liebowitz will be on hand to delight children of all ages with his tales. Then we will adjourn to the Oneg Room to make (and eat!) latkes, along with a potluck lunch. In addition to Chanukah songs, there might even be a dreidl game or two.

This event is co-sponsored by the Children's (Family) Havurah and the Education Committee in honor of National Jewish Book Month. Everyone who enjoys children is invited to attend. Please give the synagogue office a call to let us know you're coming, and bring a dairy potluck dish to share, as well as a dreidl to get an early start on your Chanukah spirit.

Bikkur Cholim

More Visits to Elderly

Sha'ar Zahav's participation in Jewish Family and Children's Services program of holiday visits to isolated elderly Jews has been so rewarding to the participants that a new program is being organized. Members of the congregation will be able to develop an ongoing relationship with individuals in nursing homes and those living on their own in the community. Debbie Goodman, a social worker on the JF&CS staff, will be meeting with members interested in this new program during December. Members who participated in the program in the past include Aaron Cooper, Mike Rankin and Ron Lezell.

Our Chanukah visits have been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, December 28. We will be taking menorahs, dreidels, Chanukah music and small gifts to brighten the lives of these members of our community. During our visits on Rosh Hashanah we could see tears of love and recognition on the faces of many of these people. For us, the warm and loving feelings cannot be described.

Join with us in these important activities of tzedakah and caring. Please call Paul Cohen at 929-0475 to confirm your participation and get further information.

Chanukah Blessings

The Chanukah menorah is lit each night of Chanukah, beginning with one candle the first night and adding another each successive night.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu,
me-lech ha-o-lam, a-she- ki-de-sha-nu
be-mits-vo-tav, ve-tsi-va-nu
le-had-lik neir shel Cha-nu-ka.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

Blessed is Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who hallows us through mitzvot and has commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu,
me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-sa ni-sim
la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-heim
ba-ze-man ha-zeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed is Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

(On the first night only)

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu,
me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu
ve-ki-ye-ma-nu ve-hi-gi-a-nu
la-ze-man ha-zeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּינוּ
וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed is Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Chanukah Begins Early

Celebrate Chanukah a little early with Sha'ar Zahav's Education Committee—on Sunday, December 14, to be precise. Enjoy a splendid brunch of lox and bagels and more. Jonathan Schwartz will lead us in songs traditionally associated with the Festival of Lights, and the well-known Bay Area storyteller, Mark Freeman, will tell stories for grownups. Upstairs, the Book Fair will be on view in the library; so celebrate Chanukah early this year and get a jump on your gift shopping!

Because we need to know how much food to order, please make your reservations by phoning either Bill Goodstein (793-4283) or Ed Tanovitz (482-4825). The price for the event, including a box of Chanukah candles to take home, is \$5.

Come join our pre-Chanukah celebration, Sunday, December 14, from 11 am to 2 pm at the shul.

Women's Havurah

Your Guess Is as Good as Mine

Down on your luck? Not after spending the afternoon on Sunday, December 7, in Trivial Pursuits, Scrabble, cards and other games with the Women's Havurah.

The entrance "fee"—not a requirement—will be a baby picture of yourself. At the end of the afternoon, a prize will go to the woman who can correctly guess the adult identities of the most babies. Another special feature will be a bridge lesson from Betty Kalis for those who have never played, or almost never played.

So bring your adult and baby selves, a favorite game if you wish, and we will provide the fun, refreshments and luck. Join us in the Oneg Room from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, December 7!

Hometown Jewish Home Journals

Last month I listed several national periodicals of interest. This column reviews Bay Area-published magazines.

- An exciting new Bay Area publication has already had an important impact on the national Jewish scene. *Tikkun*, which in Hebrew means "to mend, repair and transform the world," published its first issue early this past summer. *Tikkun* is dedicated to exploring the world from a progressive, Jewish point of view. (As the magazine's cover explains, "All the rest is commentary.") Its national editorial board is an impressive and diverse cross-section of creative Jewish leaders from America and Israel (some have since resigned over the allegedly polemic tone of the lead article in the first issue). "*Tikkun* [promises] to provide a voice for those who still dare to dream..." It is a brave venture and a worthy experiment deserving of our support. (*Tikkun*, Institute for Labor and Mental Health, 5100 Leona St., Oakland, CA 94619; quarterly; \$20/four issues)

- Those who support the Jewish community through donations to the Jewish Community Federation automatically receive a subscription to the weekly *Northern California Jewish Bulletin*. The Bulletin thoroughly covers local Jewish news (including many articles we could perhaps do without) as well as political news from Israel, and other topics of interest to the Jewish community. Sha'ar Zahav has been prominently mentioned in several articles, including ones about the Jewish community and AIDS, No on 64, and a report of the Western Regional Conference. The Bulletin is a convenient way to stay connected to the wider Jewish community. As local Jewish papers go,

it is among the best in the country. (*Jewish Bulletin*, 121 Steuart St., San Francisco 94105; weekly; free to donors to the Jewish Community Federation Campaign; otherwise \$20/yr.)

- The *Jewish Women's Newsletter* has been published for almost a year. Its contributors are women who identify themselves as Jewish and feminist. Issues are devoted to a single topic: Spirituality, Jews by Choice, Lesbian and Bisexual Women. Past contributors include Leslie Bergson and Laurie Davis; another CSZ member is one of three editors. Each issue includes calendar, newsbriefs and networking columns. (*Jewish Women's Newsletter*, Box 335, Berkeley, CA 94701; 10 issues/yr.; \$8-18 (sliding scale)/yr.)

- *Agada* describes itself as an "illustrated Jewish literary magazine" devoted to fiction, poetry, memoir, essay and art. The current issue is on "Survivors," and the next promises "Images of Israel." (*Agada*, 2020 Essex St., Berkeley, CA 94703; "Subscription, \$12, single copy, \$6")

- *J.A.C.O.B.'s Letter* is published for the members and friends of the Jewish Arts Community of the Bay. J.A.C.O.B. is open to all who express "Jewish identity, values and traditions" through art. Published quarterly, the *Letter* includes information for artists (in all media), a calendar of events, original literary work and reviews. (*JACOB*, 121 Steuart St., Suite 402, San Francisco 94105; \$20/yr., \$10/yr. low income)

- The finest Bay Area periodical is published by a San Francisco synagogue. The *Forward* covers all the significant developments on Danvers St., as well as feature articles of special interest. Readers all over

the world look for guidance to the *Forward's* syndicated columnist, Aunt Yente. The *Jewish Gaily Forward* has been called by one national leader the "best synagogue newsletter in the country." It is one of the many benefits of membership in Congregation Sha'ar Zahav—and you can give a subscription to your family and friends, too. (CSZ, 220 Danvers St., San Francisco 94114; monthly; free to members, subscriptions \$12/yr.)

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Lillian & Gerard Landsberger, in memory of Mark Landsberger

Jane Stone & Pro Provos, in honor of Marion & Betty's anniversary

Kenneth Kornfield & Esta Gallant Kornfield

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Alex & David's anniversary

Terry Rothchild & Lynn Taylor, in honor of their 6th anniversary and in deep respect and thanks for the people of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

George Lucas & Tom Rothgiesser, in honor of their anniversary and their many years together

Marion Trentman, in honor of the birthdays of Jane Stone & Pro Provos, in honor of Laurie Davis' hard work on the Women's Conference, in honor of four perfect years with Betty Kalis

Dennis Moribe & Mark Mendelow, in honor of David & Alex's anniversary

Steven Horowitz, in honor of Cheryl Orvis' moving sermon

Max & Sylvia Goldstein, in honor of Shenee Mandell's speedy recovery

George Ash, in memory of his brother Steven

Building Fund

Leonie Darwin

(Continued on page 9)



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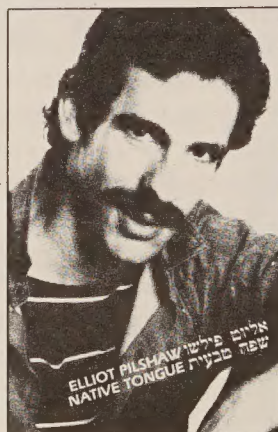
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DECEMBER

חשוון - כסלו

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	29 Cheshvan 1	30 2	1 Kislev 3	2 4	3 5	4 6
	Education Comm. 7:30pm	Rosh Chodesh I Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm Newsletter Comm. 1772 Sanchez 7pm	Rosh Chodesh II Class, 7:30pm		Services, 8:15pm Book Fair Opens Rabbi Hirsch Emanu-El, 8pm	
5 7	6 8	7 9	8 10	9 11	10 12	11 13
Children's Books & Latkes 11am-1pm Women's Havurah Games 3-6pm AA Meeting, 6:30pm	Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am Class, 7:30pm		Services, 8:15pm	
12 14	13 15	14 16	15 17	16 18	17 19	18 20
Chanukah Book Fair & Brunch 11am-2pm AA Meeting 6:30pm		Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm			Services, 8:15pm	
19 21	20 22	21 23	22 24	23 25	24 26	25 27
AA Meeting 6:30pm		Newsletter Mailing 11 Grandview Terr. 7:30pm			1st Chanukah Light Services, 8:15pm New Members Night	Services, 10:30am 2nd Chanukah Light Chanukah Party California & Webster 8pm-midnight
26 28	27 29	28 30	29 31			
Bikkur Cholim Home Visits AA Meeting, 6:30pm 3rd Chanukah Light	4th Chanukah Light	5th Chanukah Light	6th Chanukah Light			

Ritual Calendar

Friday, December 5

Parshah: Toldot, Gen. 25:19-28:9

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7

Garry Koenigsberg

Friday, December 12

Parshah: Va-Yetze, Gen. 28:10-32:3

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Leslie Bergson

Friday, December 19

Parshah: Va-Yishlah, Gen. 32:4-36:43

Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12

Susan Unger & Dana Vinicoff

Torah Service

Friday, December 26

First night of Chanukah

Parshah: Va-Yeshev, Gen. 27:1-40:23;

Num. 7:1-17

Haftarah: Zech. 2:14-4:7

Leslie Bergson & Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Saturday, December 27

First day of Chanukah

Morning Service, 10:30 am

Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Bill Schlichter

January Preview

Friday, January 2

Eighth night of Chanukah

Parshah: Miketz, Gen. 41:1-44:17;

Num. 7:54-8:4

Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-50

Daniel Chesir

Chanukah Concert

On December 25, there will be a gala Chanukah concert at Berkeley Hillel at 2 pm. Performing are vocalist Linda Hirschhorn, Ljuba Davis with the Brotherhood Band, and the Direh Gelt klezmer band. This celebration of Jewish culture will benefit the *Jewish Women's Newsletter*, a Bay Area feminist publication for Jewish women. Childcare will be provided and will include a special children's program on making Chanukah puppets. Suggested donation: \$10-\$5, sliding scale, \$2 discount for seniors, \$2 for children. For more information, call 841-3203.

Birthdays

- 1 Yoram Gal
- 2 Thomas Yazman
- 4 Michael McCormick
- 4 Alan Schrager
- 8 George Lucas
- 10 Cindy Icke
- 10 Sonia Douglass
- 11 Abraham Cohen
- 12 Ralph Frischman
- 12 Bill Goldstein
- 12 Walt Leiss
- 14 Jill Rose
- 15 Ron Lezell
- 19 David Shaber
- 19 Don Albert
- 24 Ellen Kugler
- 25 G. Murray Miller
- 29 Jacqueline Letalien
- 29 David Emmanuel Masson
- 30 Leslie Bergson
- 30 Michael Chriesman
- 31 Sam Thal

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met on Monday night, November 10. President Irene Ogus was happy to report that David Stein has graciously accepted her request to coordinate Sha'ar Zahav's participation in the Jewish Federation Telethon. She noted that the Reform Congregation in Puerto Rico has thanked us for our donation, and placed two tiles in our name on its "Wall of Friends." Irene read a letter from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank thanking CSZ for the food that was collected during the Yom Kippur food drive.

Peter Abinanti announced his decision to step down as Oneg chair. Peter said he has enjoyed serving as the chair of the Oneg Committee and he thanked the Va'ad for the opportunity to contribute to Sha'ar Zahav. Irene thanked Peter for his hard work as chair of the Oneg Committee. Irene said that she will seek a new chair for the Oneg Committee with Richard's assistance. The Board unanimously voted to thank Peter for his years of devoted service on the Oneg Committee.

Treasurer Jerry Rosenstein presented information about High Holiday donations and about dues pledged by new members. Jerry requested that checks being turned in for the Chanukah raffle be marked "raf-

fle", and that checks being turned in for the raffle not include amounts for other things (donations, T-shirts, and so on).

The Va'ad then discussed CSZ's no-ticket policy regarding seating for High Holidays. Garry Koenigsberg stated that providing free holiday services to the community is the greatest mitzvah we do all year, and that our open door policy is a reason many members join Sha'ar Zahav. Many Va'ad members expressed their strong belief that charging for services would be a serious mistake. Others suggested ways of getting those who attend High Holiday services without donating to begin to contribute.

Membership Committee chair Robin Leonard presented 17 new membership applications, 3 for family memberships and 14 for individuals. Robin noted that additional applications were still being processed, and that over 70 membership information packages have been sent out in response to requests received at the holidays. Robin thanked the members of the Dues Education Subcommittee; and the Va'ad applauded Robin, the Dues Education Subcommittee and the Membership Committee for all of their hard work.

(Continued on page 9)

Condolences

The congregation extends our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a loss in recent weeks:

To **David Shaber**, on the loss of his sister, Miriam Wishner.

To **Leila Raim**, on the loss of her friend, Gus Arnet.

To **Andrea & Joshua Piazza**, on the loss of their friend Ron Steel.

Challahs at Chanukah

Joining the contemporary Bay Area Jewish art exhibition at the Jewish Community Museum will be a show all of us can appreciate: "Challah: The Baker's Art." Prepared by Freda Reider, author of *The Hallah Book*, the show will feature 21 different forms of challah, balanced between traditional shapes and forms designed by Mrs. Reider. The exhibition opens on December 21, continuing through January 13. On December 22 at noon, Mrs. Reider will give a challah baking demonstration. The museum is located at 121 Steuart Street and is open from 10 am to 4 pm except Saturdays and holidays. For information, call 543-8880.



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MEMBERSHIP

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High Holy Day Contributions

We are pleased to acknowledge the following people who responded to our appeals at High Holy Days with contributions. Please note this is only a partial list. The office is still processing acknowledgements, and the names of many more contributors will appear in the January issue of the *Forward*.

Peter Abinanti	✓ Jay Ladin
Janine Baer	✓ Avner Lapovsky
Marilyn Braiger	✓ Robin & Lee
Allen Brandstein	✓ Ron Lezell
Leonard Brill	✓ Alison Loebel
Prudence Carter	✓ Jonathan Mesinger
Paul Cohen	✓ Cheryl Ann Orvis
Rick Crane	✓ Perry Paker
Jay Feinstein	✓ Jeff Presement
Jonathan Funk	✓ Sharyn Saslafsky
& John Arnold	✓ Ben Schalit
David Glassberg	✓ Jonathan Schwartz
Allan Gold	✓ Kathleen Sharp
Sheryl Goldberg	✓ Jeffrey Shuman
Donald Gordon	✓ Richard Sinkoff
Bob Gutterman	✓ Nancy Snow
Stephanie Hannaford	✓ David Stein
Allen Harris	& Alex Ingersoll
Neil Hart	✓ Rob Tat
Ellie Hoffman	✓ Marion Trentman
Marilyn Kalman	✓ Dana Vinicoff
Bruce Katz	✓ Tom Yazman
Martin Kupferman	✓ Michael Zimmerman

Note from the Treasurer

Although Sha'ar Zahav maintains a tradition of not selling tickets for High Holy Days, we depend upon contributions to support the cost of the holiday services and our ongoing work. The response this year was better than in past years, with roughly 35% of those attending responding to our appeals. We are grateful to all who continually support Sha'ar Zahav and to those who made the decision to contribute for the first time this year. We are still baffled, however, by the 65% who came and enjoyed our services, but who chose not to support our congregation. It's not too late—if you have forgotten to mail in your pledge card, or have lost it, just mail your check in with a note that it is for High Holy Days.

—Jerry Rosenstein, Treasurer

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PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

Remembering autumn: The Jewish Homelife Class, headed by the learned Leslie Bergson, studies how to put the finishing touches on Sha'ar Zahav's Sukkah.

From the AIDS Food Bank

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of our Food Bank program, and for your recent food drive during Yom Kippur which brought in over \$1,400 worth of food for people with AIDS and ARC. Your contributions, as always, have already been distributed and were very much appreciated by everyone.

Your support is something that we have come to rely on, and I can't tell you how much that means to us. The demand for food has never been higher—just yesterday 55 people used the Food Bank.

I'd also like to say a special thank you to Jay Feinstein for all of his hard work in setting up this celebration and food drive. Thank you again—all of you—for your support and belief in this program.

Sincerely,
Cary Norsworthy
Food Bank Coordinator
SF AIDS Foundation

Together at High Holy Days

Dear Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Thank you for providing a place where I could come as both a gay and a Jewish person. Holidays are often particularly difficult times for me because of their connection to family and because of the constant reminder of my family's disapproval of my being a lesbian. It was a great support to me to be with all of you on the High Holidays.

In strength and love, L

Children at High Holidays

Not only did we offer childcare again this year at our High Holiday services at the Unitarian Center, but the service was popular. There were between 4 and 15 children enjoying childcare at each service. Our thanks to the Unitarian Center for supplying the childcare room at no extra charge. We're already looking at the feasibility of having two rooms next year.

Special Contributions

Our thanks to Walt Leiss, for once again covering the costs of our High Holiday onegs and for providing the flowers which beautified the Unitarian Center sanctuary and oneg tables.

Thanks also to the good people at Archetype, who typeset the *Forward* each month, for their generous gift of part of a month's services in honor of Rosh Hashanah.

Dr. Barak Gale

Optometrist

209 Post Street, Suite 601
San Francisco
California 94108
(415) 421-0964



So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

I've become very excited about my Jewishness ever since I began coming to synagogue. Lately I've been trying to work on my roommate, who is a Catholic, to make her see how much better it is with us. Can you give me any tips?

Enthusiastic on Eureka

Dear Enthusiastic,

Certainly. **Stop That.**

It's not, you should understand, that Aunt Yente isn't happy about your excitement; and it's only natural to want to share what you're excited about. But going out and finding people from a different religion to change over is not for us. As someone Aunt Yente knew in Venice would have said, "So what do you need more Jews for? Lox isn't expensive enough already?"

There are, actually, better reasons for not being a missionary than even the price of brunch food. You see, Kinderlach, being Jewish means many things (Aunt Yente will refrain from her usual eating and shopping jokes) but it doesn't come either with a membership card in Heaven or with God's unlisted number. In fact, each person worrying about their own individual "salvation"—whatever that is—is not very important to Jews. Instead, we worry about nothing less than *tikkun olom*, the healing of the whole universe.

As good Jews, you and your Aunt Yente do what we can in a Jewish way to help make such healing. But why shouldn't your friend help in her own way? (Aunt Yente is tempted to say that she should

start by doing something about the Supreme Bigot in Rome, but then your friend could bring up our two Chief Bigots, so better we shouldn't get into that.) Our rabbis taught that all of Noah's children—that is, everyone in the world—has an obligation to carry out seven commandments, like not torturing animals, acting with justice, avoiding murder and idolatry, and so on. (Idolatry means worshipping objects, not just calling God by a different name or using a different ceremony.) A non-Jew who carries out these commandments is walking in the way God wants, according to the Talmud, so who are you to mix in? The Talmud also teaches that no one has to answer to God for what kind of Jew they are; instead, they have to answer for what kind of *person* they are. You don't have to be Jewish to be a *mensh*.

For Jews, of course, so part of being a person is being a good Jew. (What does it mean to be a good Jew? Aunt Yente just happens to have a few—well, thirty-five—columns to show you. Or maybe you prefer Hillel's answer, that treating other people the way you want to be treated is the whole Torah, and that the rest is commentary except for Aunt Yente.) If your roommate were Jewish but had never been to shul, Aunt Yente would hurry to give advice on encouraging her to come. (Should we talk food or guilt?)

Also some non-Jewish people decide for themselves they're not satisfied, and that Yiddishkeit is what they are looking for. While the Orthodox teach to discourage

prospective converts three times, most modern Jews would emphasize instead the mitzvah of making the stranger welcome. We have no business claiming that our religion is better than everybody else's (try to overlook certain parts of our liturgy), but it is certainly very wonderful, and we don't have to be selfish about it. And you shouldn't need Aunt Yente to tell you that once a person does choose to convert, he or she is exactly the same kind of Jew as everyone else in the synagogue (except maybe the members from Brooklyn, who are in a class by themselves). (But maybe some day they'll graduate.)

As for your roommate, if she *wants* to come to services she is very welcome; maybe she'll enjoy the ceremony and the music, and maybe some parts will speak to her, and all that is very good. But our job as Jews is not to sell our ceremonies or our theology, but to share our *derech erez*, our way of walking in the world: to treat everyone with fairness and kindness, so that everyone is encouraged to act the same way. So instead of trying to make your roommate believe like you, better you should stop leaving your dirty dishes in the sink.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

For three years now I've had a Jewish lover, and I'm convinced that all your holidays—and in fact your entire religion—is only an excuse to get together and eat special food at every opportunity. Isn't this true?

Fascinated in Fort Wayne

Dear Fascinated,

It's very nice weather we've been having, don't you think?

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1986 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Mark S. Mendelow, L.C.S.W.

is pleased to announce the opening of an office for the practice of psychotherapy with Children, Adults, and Families.

1010 Noe Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

(415) 821-9876
License #LG10489

Classified Ads

SADIE, You should go see this play *What's A Mother To Do?* since it's about us and of course our sons who maybe are a little bit gay. Besides, it's written by Michael Zimmerman and he's a member and it's only a workshop production so it shouldn't cost you too much. Your best friend, Gerty. December 10, 11, 17 & 18 at Theatre Rhinoceros. Call 861-5079 for reservations.

LOST at Yom Kippur services: photograph of a man. Please call Andrea Felix, 668-3284.

Contributions

(Continued from page 4)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lillian & Gerard Landsberger, in memory of Mark Landsberger and in honor of Leslie Bergson

Thomas Yazman

Deborah Pines, in memory of her brother

Library Fund

Carole Pertofsky, in memory of David Kotch

Jon Funk & John Arnold, in honor of Alex & David's anniversary

AIDS Fund

Jocelyn & Cory Feldman, in honor of Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, wishing them a good New Year

Steve Cronenwalt

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in honor of Mark Mendelow opening his new psychotherapy office

Torah Fund

Susan Horst, in honor of the birth of Nicholas Sward Kline

Calling All Name Tags

After numerous members mentioned that they could not find their name tags, Jacqueline and I spent an evening cross checking the name tags against the current membership list. *One hundred name tags were missing!* Those of you who have advertently taken your name tags home with you, know who you are. Those of you who have inadvertently taken your name tags home with you, may not. Please check the shirt, sweater or jacket you wore when you last attended services.

It is both expensive and time consuming to remake name tags unnecessarily. Please return yours (especially those of you with popular names who have 2 or 3 sitting on your bedroom dresser) to the synagogue as soon as possible. Thanks for your help. A reward awaits the individual who returns the most name tags to the synagogue.

—Robin Leonard,
Membership Chair

Naches

You think just your parents get naches from you? Sha'ar Zahav is proud of its family's achievements, too. Just let us know so we can let everyone else know.

This month, we're proud of member Nanci Stern, co-editor of *With the Power of Each Breath: A Disabled Women's Anthology* (along with Susan Browne and Debra Connors). In addition to previous recognition, Nanci and her co-editors have recently won special merit recognition from the Media Access Project of California, appeared on *Hour Magazine*, and received an award from Mayor Dianne Feinstein.

**To All Friends
Happy Hanukah
Jerry Rosenstein**

Va'ad Report

(Continued from page 6)

Don Albert described the UAHC Biennial program that will take place at the Clarion Hotel in San Mateo February 27 through March 1. UAHC President Alexander Schindler will address the Biennial, and the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble will provide entertainment. The program will also include discussions of pluralism, education, budgeting, social action, the changing family, and Shabbat services and study sessions. Members are encouraged to participate. Irene expressed the hope that the Executive Committee, the rabbi, and others will make suggestions for disbursing money in the Phooey on AIDS Fund.

Don Albert presented preliminary information about a tour package being planned in connection with next July's World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jews in Amsterdam. The package will include travel from Los Angeles to Amsterdam and Tel Aviv. Don also described the concept of endowment funds, and said the Finance Committee and other interested parties would attend a meeting at which Irving Wiener, who is experienced in the area of endowment funds, will speak.

Before the Va'ad met in an executive session, those present sang *Oseh Shalom* to mark the end of the meeting.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

Yahrzeits

- 5 Charles Staub, grandfather of Wendy Weiss
- 5 (3 Kislev) Nathan Handman, grandfather of Jonathan Schwartz
- 6 (4 Kislev) Morris Schwartz, father of Jonathan Schwartz
- 9 Frieda Shaber, mother of David Shaber
- 9 (7 Kislev) Maurice Osser, father of Gordon Osser
- 10 David Abbuehl, cousin of Abigail Abbuehl
- 10 Sherman Kalis, brother of Betty Kalis
- 13 (11 Kislev) Frank Chesir, father of Daniel Chesir
- 13 Barbara Mendelow, sister of Mark Mendelow
- 14 Paula Kallman Meyer, grandmother of Nancy Meyer
- 14 Meyer Paker, brother of Perry Paker
- 16 David Goldware, grandfather of Robert Goldware
- 18 Reuben Ritz, stepfather of Barry Siegel
- 19 Ben Rudman, uncle of Richard Crane
- 20 Norman David Kramer, member of Sha'ar Zahav
- 20 Alfred Simon, brother of Robert Simon
- 20 Theodore & Valentine Simon, parents of Robert Simon
- 20 (18 Kislev) Jacob Koshover, grandfather of Sherie Ann Koshover
- 23 Harold Berger, father of Don Berger
- 25 A. Martin Lipschutz, father of Marc A. Lipschutz
- 27 Lillian Hellen Abbuehl, grandmother of Abigail Abbuehl
- 31 Sam Kimerling, grandfather of Allyce Kimerling

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Please,

don't forget our brothers in need. Keep filling the shul's collection baskets with non-perishable food and other household items for the SF AIDS Foundation's residence program

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Irene Ogus
Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Eric Keitel
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Shirley Liberman
Mike Rankin
Susan Talley
Don Albert, ex officio

Member Union of American Hebrew
Congregations and World Congress of
Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass &
Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, by committee
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Services are held every Friday evening
beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg
Shabbat following services. Services
are generally held on the last Saturday
of each month at 10:30 a.m. — check
calendar for each month.

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Secretary:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Tues-
day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday and
Thursday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday,
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please
leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency,
the Congregation can be contacted out-
side of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located
in the Upper Market District of San Fran-
cisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which
is one block south of the intersection of
18th & Market Streets. By public trans-
port, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th
& Danvers and walk one block south on
Danvers to Caselli.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased
to announce that our Congregation
gained several new members in Novem-
ber. A warm welcome to the latest peo-
ple to join our family, including:

Robin Barnett & Hilda Baldoquin
Howard Blechman
Ali Cannon
Sarah Comerchero
Mark Drusin
Sam Ellison
Sage Foster
Mark Freeman
David Israels
Beatrice Lieberman &
Ma'ayan Lieberman
Sandy Lowe
Mark Mackler
Wendy Oberlander
Judy Schwartz & Pam Schaffer
Fay Twersky
Lonnie Weiss

New members are welcomed and hon-
ored at Friday night services on the last
Friday of the month. By making them feel
a part of our family, we can all help to
show our new members that they have a
valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Beate Klarsfeld to Speak

Renowned Nazi-hunter, Beate Klarsfeld
will speak at Temple Emanu-El (Arguel-
lo & Lake) on December 10 at 8 pm. Her
lecture is entitled "From Klaus Barbie to
Kurt Waldheim—Confronting the Nazi
Connection." The event is sponsored by
the Holocaust Library & Research Cen-
ter, the American Jewish Congress, Con-
gregation Emanu-El and Jeff Marmer
Events. Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for students/
seniors) and are available from Ticketron
(392-7469) or at the door.

Oneg Sponsors

During October, onegs were sponsored by
the following generous people:

- 7 Prudence Carter, in memory of
Jody's father, Buddy
- 14 Peter Abinanti, Jane Graeven,
Frank Masson
- 21 Irene Ogus, Richard Inlander, in
honor of Rabbi Kahn's birthday

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg
is to think of the occasion and contact the
synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of
sponsoring an Oneg is approximately \$50
(partial sponsorship available) or you can
also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a
more personal touch.

Anniversaries

- 9 Jill Rose & Ann Kennedy
- 14 Shelley Spiro & Gabriele Kassner



Cafe Latke Grande

Casa Sha'ar Zahav Presente Chanukah at

Cafe Latke Grande

Sabado evening December 27, 1986 8:00 - midnight

Temple auditorium Casa Sherith Israel
California & Webster (north of the border)

Fiesta: musica
entertainment
latke grande
salsa

refreshments
mexican trip raffle
silent auction
menorah lighting

Passport: *5 members *7 guests

Dress: colorful

bring your own menorah

